

# The community engagement of the UK SKA Regional Centre

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*On behalf of the UKSRC*

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The University of Manchester

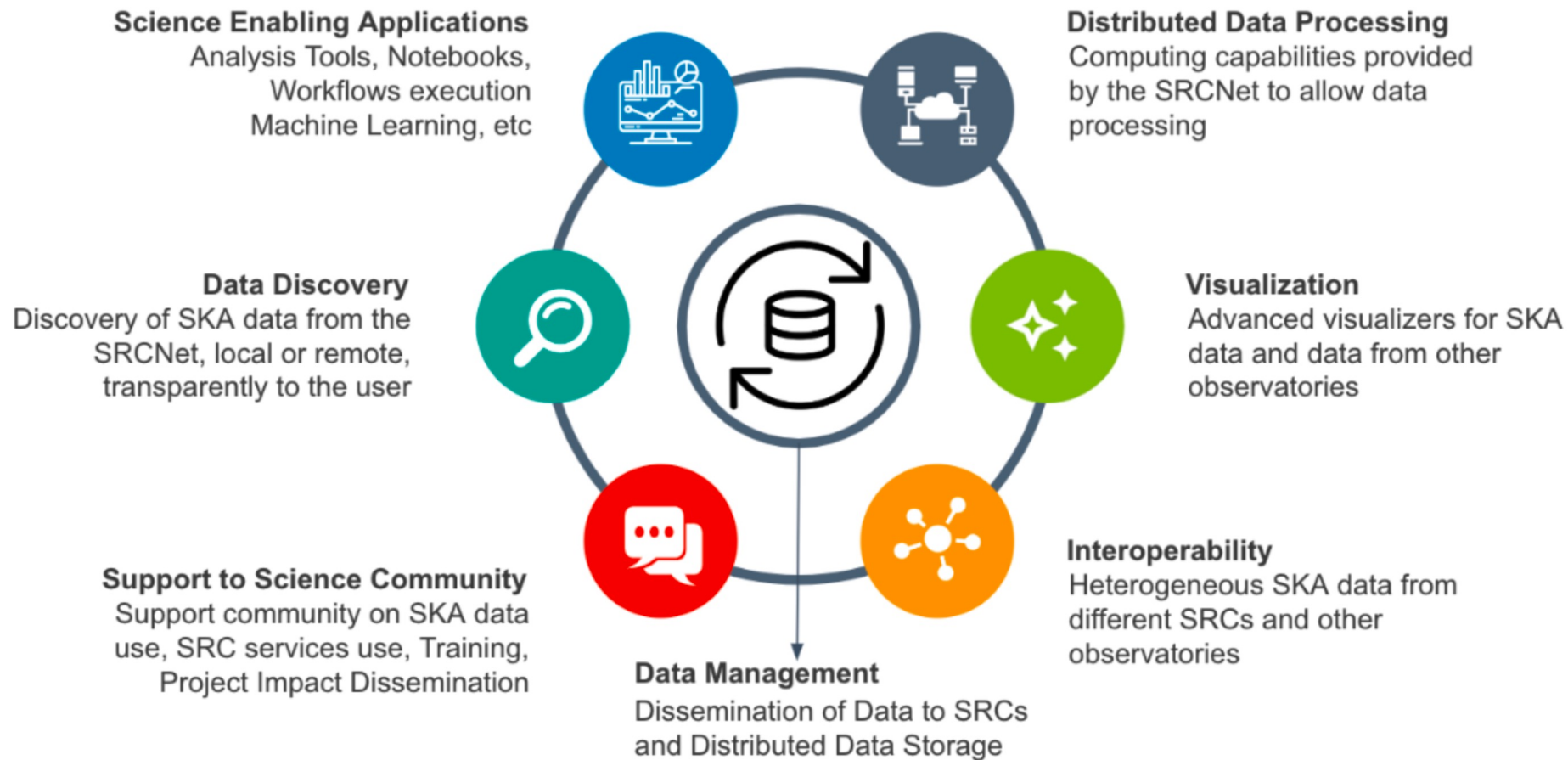
# The Square Kilometre Array Project

Next generation radio astronomy facility with ~20 participating countries



# The SRCNet

The SKA Regional Centre Network (SRCNet) will provide a portal to access SKA data



# The UK SKA Regional Centre

UK SRC infrastructure  
and services:  
Supporting and  
facilitating UK science

Global SRC Network:  
Developing and delivering  
the global SRCNet.

UK SKA Regional Centre



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH



Durham  
University

University of  
Hertfordshire **UH**

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester



Science and  
Technology  
Facilities Council

Scientific Computing

# “Cross-boarder” communication team

Community engagement & User support

Interdisciplinary: Involving astronomy, computing science, social science



# Interdisciplinary communication strategy



## Goals:

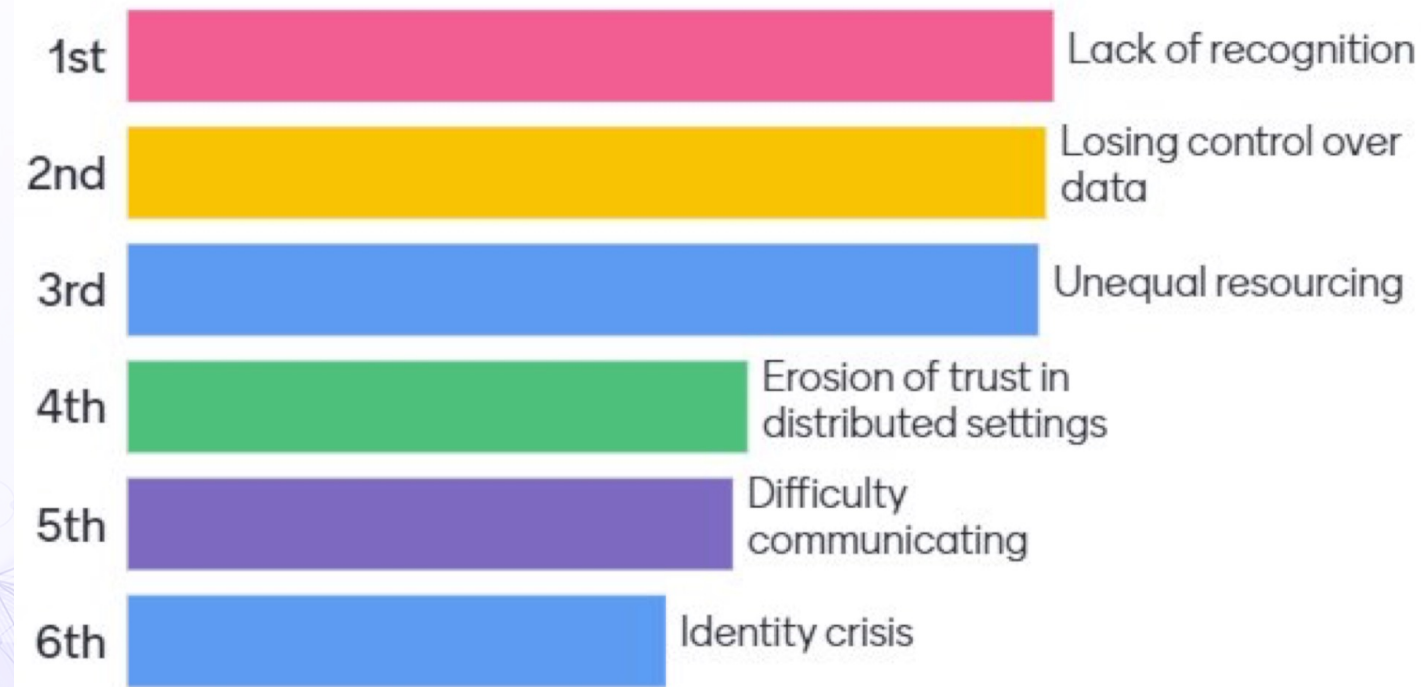
Communicate appropriate messages;  
Build community trust;  
Develop targeted schemes to support;

## Approaches:

Collaboration between science, sociology,  
educational research and DRI expertise

## Methods:

Interview astronomers -> Identify 6 themes ->  
Community feedbacks



# Community engagement – Fair data accelerator

Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable

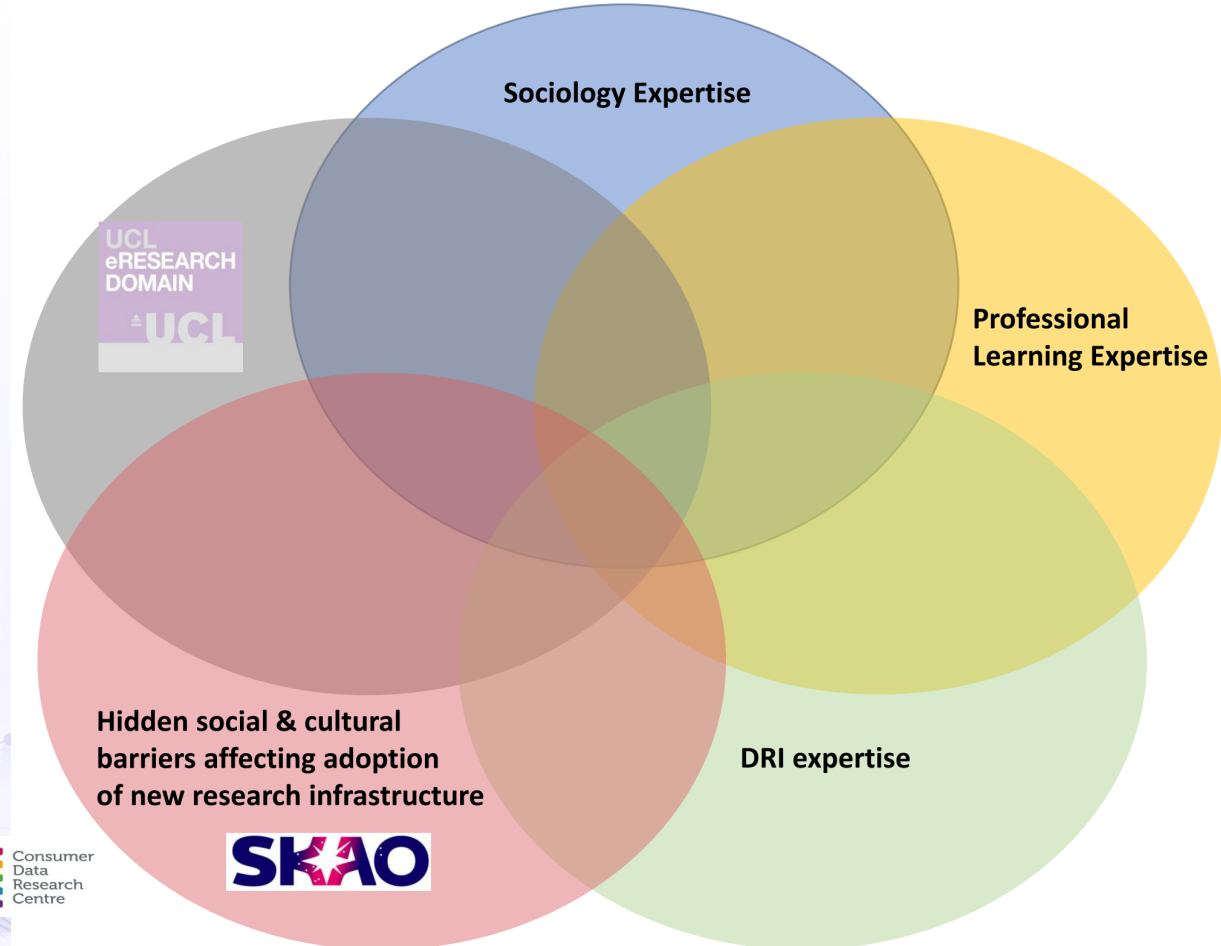
## Background:

- Digital Research Infrastructures introduced by SKA
- Transformation of data volume, data gathering, analysis and sharing.
- Social & Cultural barriers to implement FAIR principle for scientists under DRI.

## Goals:

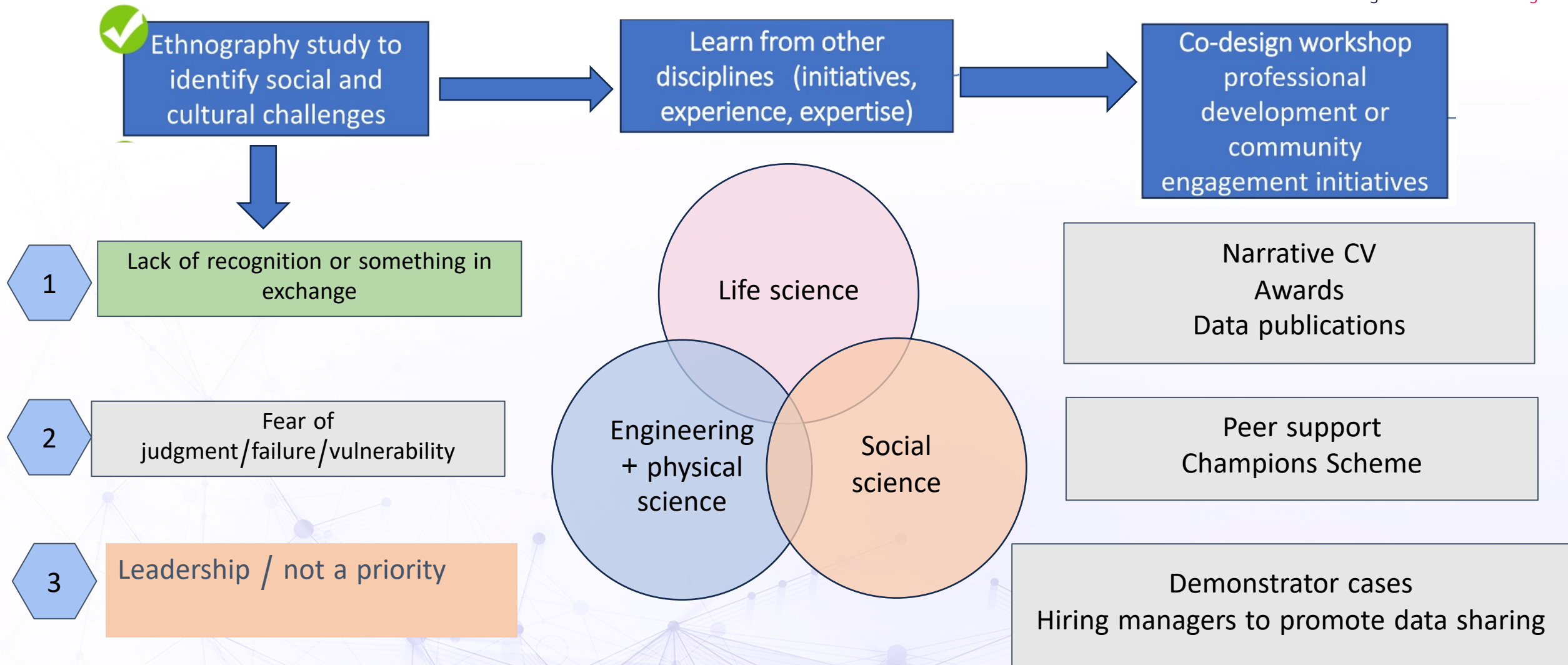
- Understand challenges
- Support communities
- Accelerate use of FAIR

## Approaches



# Community engagement – Fair data accelerator **uk** | SRC

SKAO Regional Centre United Kingdom





# Community engagement – Demonstrator case **uk** | SRC

SKAO Regional Centre United Kingdom

**Goals:** Co-design and co-develop the UKSRC node with the community

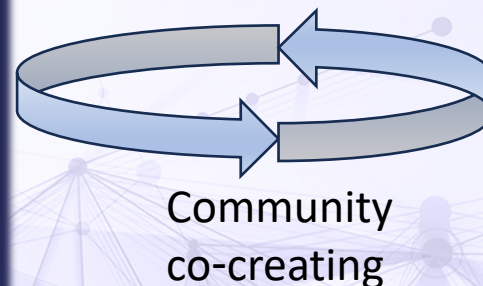
**Approach:** Demonstrator cases

- **Identify priorities:** open calls , community townhall, engagement workshops
- **Onboard** to UKSRC resources
- UKSRC **support**
- User **feedbacks**

**Progress:** 4 cases finished, 3 cases onboarding, more calls to come

Users receive

- Compute resources
- Workflows within UKSRC architecture
- Science/development/tech support from UKSRC
- Participate in the future direction and features in UKSRC/SRCNet
- New science using UKSRC resources



UKSRC Receive

- Incorporate new workflows
- Ability to stress-test system with new workflows
- Inform development of UKSRC architecture & development
- Develop science support models

# Community engagement – Champion Scheme

## Long-Term Champion Scheme

**Target:** Early Career Researchers

**Deputy:** Ambassador for SKA-related science and the UKSRC

**Activities:** Champion to organize

**Aims:** Upskill community

**Benefits:** UKSRC funding for initiative  
Network opportunities  
Professional training/assistance

**Approach:** 'Once a Champion, always a Champion'  
Supportive and engaging environment for future growth  
Interaction with UKSRC community  
Engage and network with future cohorts

## Knowledge Hub

**Purpose:** Community upskill

**Motivations:** Reference source for community  
UKSRC marketing  
Easy win-win

**Marketing:** Hosted on UKSRC webpage

**Contents:** Tutorial, Demos, Coding resources

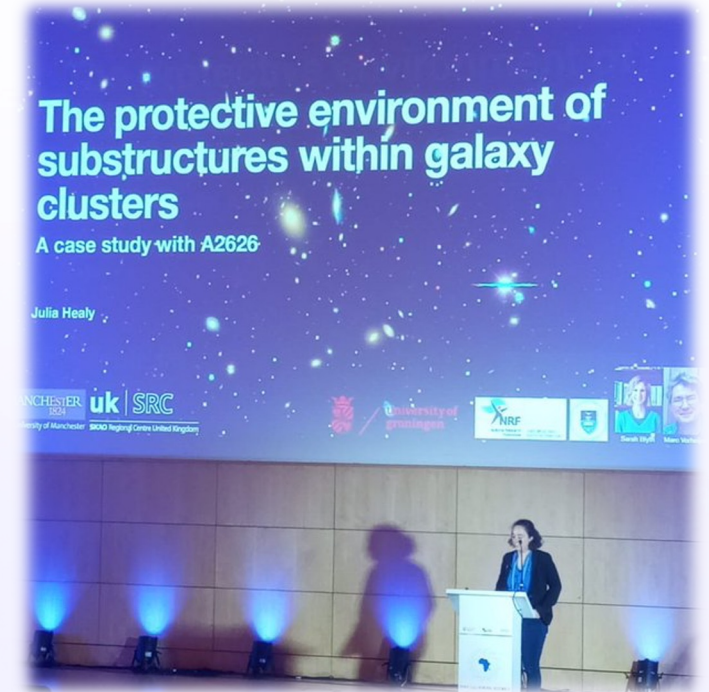


# Community Visibility – Conferences

Stand, UKSRC talk & poster at National Astronomy Meeting



Science talks at International Astronomy Union

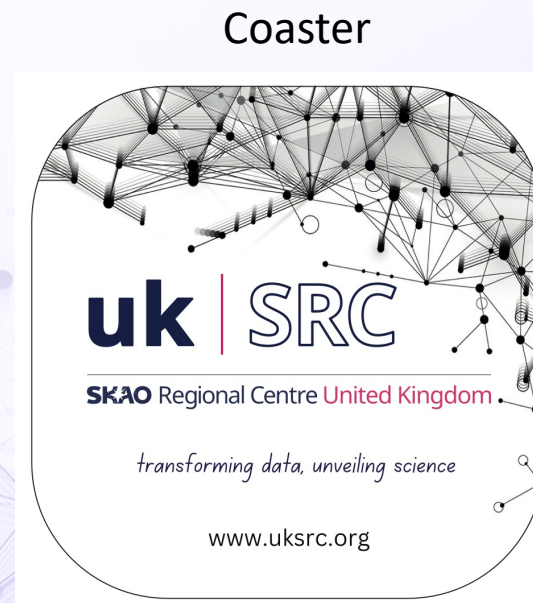
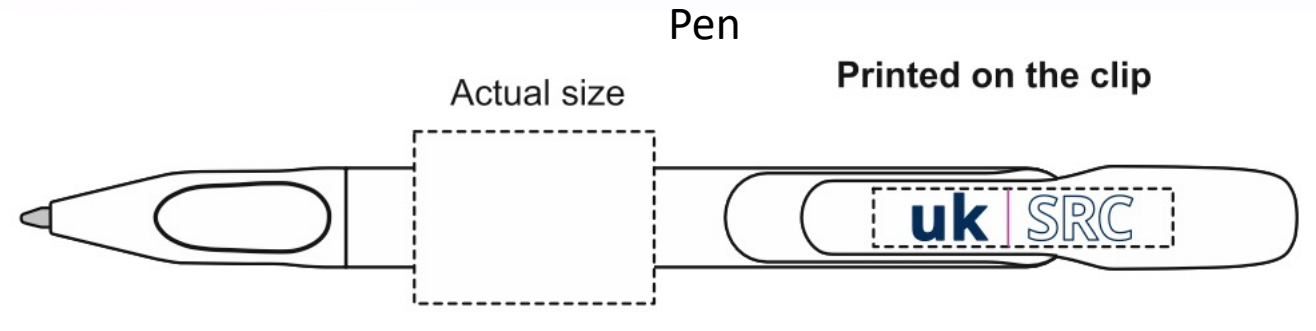


UKSRC Townhall panel discussion



# Community Visibility – Branded marketing

Branded design for consistency and recognition.



# Community Visibility - Webinars

**Interval:** every ~3 months

**Audience:** SKA-related scientists + tech staff

**Advertising:** Email list, Slack channels, SKA working group leads

**Contents:** Demo on UKSRC/SRCNet developments + science talks related to SKA

**Feedbacks:** Post-webinar surveys + registration/attendance report

32 Registered, 21 attended

7 survey responders - 57% very satisfied, 43% satisfied

76 Registered, 47 attended

19 survey responders - 58% very satisfied, 42% satisfied



uksrc.org/webinar-series/

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**UKSRC**  
**25 WEBINAR SERIES**  
JULY  
12.00-12.50

Featuring

**Dr CHRIS SKIPPER**  
University of Manchester  
Developing a science-analysis platform for the SKA.

**Dr FRITS SWEIJEN**  
Durham University  
Towards a systematic sub-arcsecond resolution survey of the Northern low-frequency sky.

Register to join us!

QR code



UKRI  
Science and Technology Facilities Council

7 March 2024  
12:00-12:50 UTC

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**Introducing UKSRC**

Dr Louise Chisholm & Prof. Rob Beswick  
Joint Directors of UKSRC

UKSRC webinar series

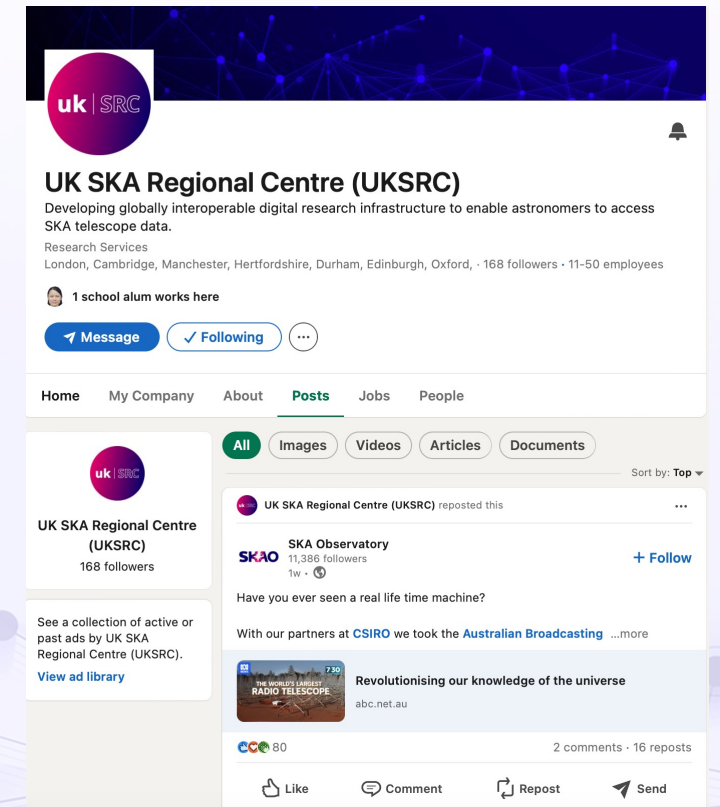
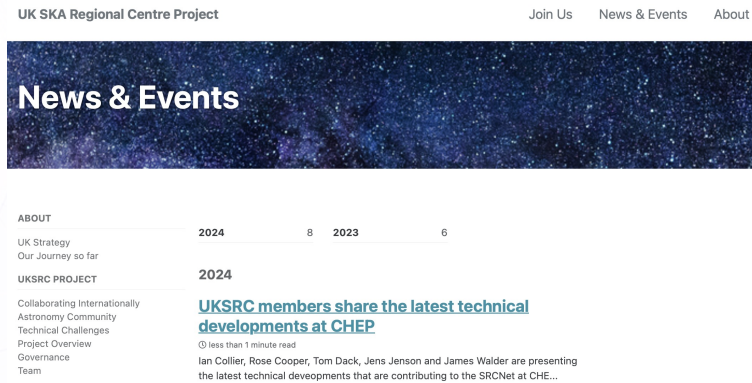
More info: [uksrc.org/webinar-series/](https://uksrc.org/webinar-series/)

Live Webinar attendance & on-demand recording access

QR code

# Community Visibility - Social media

Regular updates on various social media platforms



Mailing list:

[ukska-sciencecommunity@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:ukska-sciencecommunity@jiscmail.ac.uk)

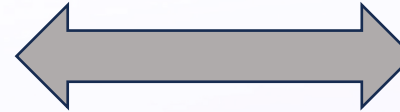
# Valuable Learnings

Dedicated communication team with science background



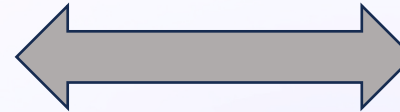
From scientists;  
For scientists

Interdisciplinary collaboration



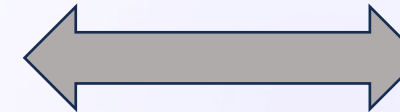
Unveil hidden barriers

Targeted community campaigns



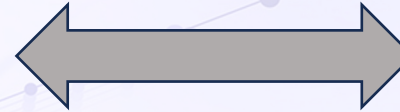
Know-how support

Win-win engagement initiatives



Community attraction

Branded marketing



Recognisable & Memorable

Regular community visibility



Be there, for them



**uk** | SRC

SKAO Regional Centre **United Kingdom**

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# The UK SKA Regional Centre

## Vision

- To enable UK scientists to lead exploitation of SKA data, by meeting the needs of the UK Science Community and providing seamless access to SKA data and support.

## Mission

- To maximise the return to the UK through a contribution to the SRCNet at a level commensurate with the UK's leading role in the project.
- To deliver a UKSRC Node, enabling the UK to maximise scientific return and drive innovation in data science.

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